

were among the dead. Twelve Swiss, two Japanese, two Germans, one French, and nine Egyptians were among the wounded.

1998

U.S. Embassy Bombings in East Africa, August 7, 1998: A bomb exploded at the rear entrance of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, killing 12 U.S. citizens, 32 Foreign Service Nationals (FSNs), and 247 Kenyan citizens. About 5,000 Kenyans, six U.S. citizens, and 13 FSNs were injured. The U.S. embassy building sustained extensive structural damage. Almost simultaneously, a bomb detonated outside the U.S. embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, killing seven FSNs and three Tanzanian citizens, and injuring one U.S. citizen and 76 Tanzanians. The explosion caused major structural damage to the U.S. embassy facility. The U.S. Government held Usama Bin Ladin responsible.

2000

Attack on U.S.S. *Cole*, October 12, 2000: In Aden, Yemen, a small dingy carrying explosives rammed the destroyer U.S.S. *Cole*, killing 17 sailors and injuring 39 others. Supporters of Usama Bin Ladin were suspected.

2001

Bus Stop Bombing, April 22, 2001: A member of Hamas detonated a bomb he was carrying near a bus stop in Kfar Siva, Israel, killing one person and injuring 60.

Tel-Aviv Nightclub Bombing, June 1, 2001: Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombing of a popular Israeli nightclub that caused over 140 casualties.

Hamas Restaurant Bombing, August 9, 2001: A Hamas-planted bomb detonated in a Jerusalem pizza restaurant, killing 15 people and wounding more than 90.

Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Homeland, September 11, 2001: Two hijacked airliners crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Soon thereafter, the Pentagon was struck by a third hijacked plane. A fourth hijacked plane, suspected to be bound for a high-profile target in Washington, crashed into a field in southern Pennsylvania. More than 5,000 U.S. citizens and other nationals were killed as a result of these acts. President Bush and Cabinet officials indicated that Usama Bin Laden was the prime suspect and that they considered the United States in a state of war with international terrorism. In the aftermath of the attacks, the United States formed the Global Coalition Against Terrorism.

Downtown Jerusalem Bombing, December 2, 2001: Two suicide bombers blew themselves up in downtown Jerusalem killing ten people and wounding more than 130. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack.

Haifa Bus Attack, December 3, 2001: A Hamas suicide bomber blew himself up on a public bus in the northern Israeli city of Haifa, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens of others.

West Bank Bus Attack, December 12, 2001: Palestinian gunman killed eight people and wounded 30 in a grenade and shooting ambush on an Israel bus in the West Bank just minutes before 2 suicide bombers struck in the Gaza Strip.

A TRIBUTE TO BETTY ANN ONG

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Betty Ann Ong, the sister of my constituent and friend

Cathie Ann Ong-Herrera. Betty was a woman of remarkable courage who was one of the many to die in the act of war perpetrated on our country on September 11, 2001.

Betty Ann Ong was born in San Francisco on February 5, 1956 to Harry Ong, Sr. and Yee Gam Oy Ong. Betty was the youngest of four siblings, Harry Ong, Jr., Cathie Ann Ong-Herrera, and Gloria Ann Ong-Woo. Betty grew up in San Francisco's Chinatown where she attended Jean Parker Elementary School, Francisco Middle School, Washington High School, and the City College of San Francisco. She excelled in volleyball and bowling. Later in life, Betty also loved to travel, collect antiques and carousels, and had an extensive collection of stuffed animals and dolls.

Betty began her career in the airline industry as a baggage handler and a ticket reservations agent with PSA and Delta Airlines. In 1998, Betty joined American Airlines as a flight attendant and later became a flight attendant purser. Betty loved her job and the people she worked with, and she was voted Flight Attendant of the Year five time by her peers.

Betty's colleagues always described her as a very loving, caring, and always friendly person, both to her co-workers and to the passengers she served. Betty received numerous written compliments from her passengers.

On that tragic date of September 11, Betty was serving as a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11 from Boston to Los Angeles. As terrorist hijackers took over the plane, Betty and her colleagues calmly reported to the ground crew vital information about what was taking place. She identified some of the hijackers' seat locations, which helped investigators later identify the individuals responsible, and asked the ground crew to pray for the passengers aboard. Under over-whelming circumstances, Betty's primary concern was the safety of her passengers.

Up until the moment her life was tragically taken, Betty Ann Ong was a true professional who performed beyond her call of duty. Betty Ann Ong acted heroically under trying circumstances, and her heroism should be a sterling example of service to us all. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Betty Ann Ong, celebrating her heroic legacy, and wishing her family peace for their loss.

HONORING FRESNO BEE REPORTER, JOHN ELLIS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fresno Bee reporter, John Ellis. Mr. Ellis was recently presented the Unsung Heroes Award given by the Youth Law Center.

The following is the story printed in today's Fresno Bee celebrating John's award:

Fresno Bee political reporter John Ellis received a national award Wednesday night that honors individuals for their work regarding child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

The Youth Law Center's annual Unsung Heroes Awards were presented to seven people. Ellis was the only journalist among the

honorees, who included bureaucrats, attorneys, a teacher and a Seattle Police Department deputy assistant chief. Six of the honorees are from California.

His Jan. 14 story, "Fresno County may house foster children illegally," told how Fresno County had been housing some of its most difficult foster children in two area motels, a practice that some legal advocates say violates state law.

The California Department of Social Services, which found out about the situation through inquiries by The Bee, notified Salvador Montana, then director of Fresno County's Department of Children and Family Services, that housing the children in motels was not allowed.

The county quit the practice after the state stepped in; the children were moved to foster-care group homes.

The sponsoring Youth Law Center is a national nonprofit organization that focuses on the problems and needs of children who are placed out of home in foster care or juvenile justice systems.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate John Ellis both for his dedication to journalism and child welfare. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing John the very best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 495 on December 12, 2001 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3447, the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important measure and I commend the distinguished chairman of the Veterans Committee, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH.

This legislation provides a number of significant enhancements to veterans health care programs, with the purpose of both expanding those services offered to veterans, and improving the manner in which those services are delivered.

Specifically, the bill makes a number of changes in the policies governing VA nursing staff. It enhances eligibility and benefits for the employee incentive scholarship and education debt reduction programs by enabling VA nurses to pursue advanced degrees while continuing to care for veterans, in order to improve recruitment and retention of nurses within the VA health care system. Furthermore, the bill establishes a 12-member National Commission on VA Nursing that would assess legislative and organizational policy changes